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Salvadoran Rebels Again Call for Talks With the U.S.

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MEXICO CITY, Feb. 23 — Salvadoran opposition leaders today renewed their offer to negotiate a political settlement in El Salvador with the Reagan Administration. They said that any increase in United States military aid to the governing junta would threaten to prolong and widen the continuing conflict.

"Sooner or later, the United States will have to talk," Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, said. "and we will always be

ready to talk, though not to surrender."

So far, the Reagan Administration has rebuffed opposition calls for negotiations and has suggested instead that the front, a coalition of Marxist guerrillas and non-Marxist opposition forces, talk directly to the military-civilian junta and its Christian Democratic President, José Napoleón Duarte. Today's call for negotiations was made in interviews here.

"We cannot talk to the fascists in the armed forces," said Salvador Samayoa, a 30-year-old former Education Minister who joined the guerrillas last year. "But

we're willing to give the Christian Democrats the benefit of the doubt if they could show they had any power of their own."

Preliminary Talks Asked

But Mr. Samayoa argued that the junta was being sustained only by United States military assistance and that preliminary talks should therefore first be held between the guerrillas and the Reagan Administration.

"The U.S. says there are progressive civilians and military officers in the Government," he added. "We want to be told who they are."

"But if the U.S. persists in seeking a military solution," he went on, "then it will have to escalate its involvement. And if it escalates, the conflict will spread to the rest of Central America."

Mr. Ungo said that the opposition had so far been cheered by the unwillingness of Western European governments to "approve" of United States military intervention in El Salvador despite documentary evidence purporting to demonstrate that Soviet-bloc arms shipments had been made to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Last week, special United States delegations visited Western European and Latin American capitals to show government officials documents that were said to have been captured from the guerrillas by Salvadoran Government forces. The documents detailed what was described as secret meetings with Soviet-bloc authorities during which arms shipments were promised.

Authenticity Is Questioned

Contrary to earlier reports, a delegation headed by Vernon Walters, a retired general and former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was in fact received in Mexico City by President Jose Lopez Portillo.

The Salvadoran opposition spokesman expressed skepticism about the authenticity of the documents, which were made public in a white paper by the Reagan Administration today. "It is well known that the army uses torture to gather its evidence," Mr. Samayoa said today. "When I was in jail, I was forced to sign many blank sheets of paper."

Mr. Ungo said that Washington's emphasis on its arms-shipment charges had led it to ignore the "real problems" in El Salvador.

Mr. Samayoa argued that United States charges that the Soviet bloc was directing El Salvador's revolutionary movement "reveals Washington's deep ignorance of the nature of our movement." He said that three of the five guerrilla groups making up the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front were "strongly anti-Soviet."